

Jazz Sensation Justin Kauflin Debuts at The Wallis

Performance and Film Screening of *Keep On Keepin' On* Highlight One Night Only Event!

Friday, January 22, 2016

(Beverly Hills, CA Jan 11) Quincy Jones and Clark Terry protégé, jazz pianist **Justin Kauflin**, will launch the **Next Generation @ The Wallis** series on Friday, January 22 at 8pm. Kauflin's performance is the first in a series that focuses the spotlight on rising artists across the performing arts spectrum. Two additional artists, Sean Chen and Steven Lin, will continue the series in February and March 2016.



"Next Generation @ The Wallis seeks out and shines a light on several exciting up-and-coming artists," said Paul Crewes, the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts' new Artistic Director, who takes the reins full time in April 2016. "We realize the importance of acknowledging emerging performers who have already made incredible strides in the performing arts and to introduce them to new audiences by showcasing them on the Bram Goldsmith stage. Justin, whose contributions to the evolution of jazz are already quite notable, is an inspiration and the perfect artist to launch this program."

About Justin Kauflin

Born in Silver Spring, Maryland, Justin Kauflin began music at age 4 with violin, adding piano a few years later. By age 6, he was performing professionally. Despite losing his sight at the age of 11, Kauflin began performing jazz a few short years later at the age of 15, most notably with the Jae Sinnett Trio. The piano extraordinaire has gone on to garner top honors and recognition at jazz festivals across the U.S., including receiving the VSA International Young Soloist Award, being voted "Jazz Artist of the Year" in VEER Magazine, being selected as a semifinalist in the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Piano Competition, and joining legendary music icon Quincy Jones on his 2013 and 2014 World Tours.

The Wallis evening will begin with a special screening of the 2014 award-winning film [*Keep on Keepin' On*](#), Alan Hicks's ode to the friendship between the prodigious lifetime Grammy Award-winning jazz trumpeter Clark Terry and Kauflin, with a rousing performance by Kauflin on piano immediately following. The documentary premiered earlier this year at the 2015 Tribeca Film Festival, winning both Heineken Audience and Best New Documentary Director Awards, as well as was recognized on the 2015 Academy Award's Oscar Shortlist.

Next Generation @ The Wallis: Justin Kauflin tickets, ranging from \$29-\$59, are available at TheWallis.org, by calling 310.746.4000, or in person at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Services located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90210. Ticket prices subject to change. For complete information, visit TheWallis.org, or call 310.746.4000.

The *Next Generation @ The Wallis* series furthers the organization's mission to support and celebrate young artists. Joining Kauflin in the opening installment of the series is Sean Chen, recent winner of UPenn's eminent 2015 Annenberg arts fellowship for artists, on February 19, and Taiwanese-American pianist Steve Lin, recognized at the 2012 Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh Competition and the recipient of the John Giordano Jury Chairman Discretionary Award at the 2013 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, on March 11.

For downloadable photos, please visit TheWallis.org/press.

About the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts:

The mission of The Wallis is to be a vital cultural hub that uses unique arts events and education programming to entertain, enlighten and inspire children and adults in our community and across the nation. Since opening its doors in October 2013, The Wallis has produced or presented over 100 dance, theatre, opera, classical music and children's programs to an ever-expanding audience. The 2014-15 season—recently awarded six LA STAGE Alliance Ovation awards including “Best Season” and “Best Musical Production” for *Spring Awakening*, which transferred to Broadway and continues its run through January at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre—saw audiences at The Wallis grow to over 44,000 attendees with another 50,000 anticipated for the 2015-16 Season which officially began in September with a sold-out and live-streamed conversation with two-time Academy Award winning actor Denzel Washington followed by four sold-out performances of the Twyla Tharp 50th Anniversary Tour.

Located in the heart of Beverly Hills, California, The Wallis brings audiences world-class theater, dance and music, performed by many of the world's most talented and sought-after artists. With eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles, and its notability as the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis offers original and revered works from across the U.S. and around the globe.

Nominated for 26 Ovation Awards, four L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Awards and the recipient of five architectural awards since opening in 2013, The Wallis is a breathtaking 70,000-square-foot venue that celebrates the classic and the modern and was designed by Zoltan E. Pali, FAIA of Studio Pali Fekete architects. The building features the restored, original 1933 Beverly Hills Post Office (on the National Register of Historic Places) that serves as the theater's dramatic yet welcoming lobby, and houses the 150-seat Lovelace Studio Theater, GRoW at The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education (a gift of Gregory Annenberg Weingarten and Family and the Annenberg Foundation) and the contemporary 500-seat, state-of-the-art Bram Goldsmith Theater. Together, these structures embrace the city's history and its future, creating a performing arts destination for L.A.-area visitors and residents alike. For more information, visit www.thewallis.org.

TICKET INFORMATION:

What: *Next Generation @ The Wallis: Justin Kauflin*
Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
Bram Goldsmith Theater

9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

When: Friday, January 22, 2016 at 8pm

Tickets: Prices: \$29-\$59 for single tickets

Online – www.TheWallis.org

By Phone – 310.746.4000

Box Office – Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Press Contacts: Sarah Jarvis, Communications Manager

310.246.3800 | sjarvis@thewallis.org

Gary W. Murphy, The Wallis Public Relations Consultant

310.914.0178 | gmurphypr@gmail.com